

## Spring 2000 wild turkey season forecast

### Lots of poult last summer should mean more jakes this spring

Many turkey hunters are already into their spring ritual—checking hunting equipment, getting their licenses, and taking scouting trips. This year's season begins Wednesday, April 26 and runs through Sunday, May 14, and will be Indiana's 31<sup>st</sup> wild turkey hunting season.

### 1999 harvest results

Last year's harvest of 6,548 birds was the seventeenth consecutive year of increased harvests. Hunters harvested wild turkeys in 70 of the 74 counties open to hunting during the 19-day season. The top 12 counties for birds harvested were: Switzerland (414), Dearborn (304), Jefferson (299), Orange (289), Perry (257), Parke (236), Crawford (233), Harrison (232), Ripley (227), Warrick (213), Franklin (207), and Washington (201).

### 2000 wild turkey season hunting forecast

Increased brood production during the 1999 summer is probably some of the best news turkey hunters in Indiana have heard in a few years. The production index (total poults/total hens) observed in July and Aug. by DNR biologists jumped from 2.8 in 1998 to 4.2 in 1999. A production index of around four is considered to be a good average for a developing population. The improved 1999 brood production should result in more juvenile gobblers (jakes) in the 2000 harvest.

The projected harvest for the 2000 season is estimated between 7,000 to 7,500 birds. Average hunter success should be 25 to 27 percent. The hunting range will remain the same as in 1999.

Indiana has never had a fatal turkey hunting incident in the 30 previous seasons. Familiarity with hunting equipment helps ensure safe hunting. Hunters should practice before taking to the field.

For more turkey hunting info. see [www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/index.htm](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/index.htm).



Snout, waddle and beard—an adult male turkey struts in Wabash Co.

## *Topics this issue...*

*Harvest of kindness*

*Stepping outside*

*New access areas*

*Free fishing weekend*

# Director of *Fish & Wildlife*



**I** want to share some good news from Washington D.C.—news that is good for Hoosiers and our natural resources. In an overwhelming show of unity, the U.S. House Resources Committee reported the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA) to the full House. The committee's most significant accomplishment of the first session, CARA is bipartisan landmark legislation that would increase funding for national and state wildlife conservation, as well as conservation education and recreation programs.

What would these funds mean for Indiana?

Since the monies are designated for conservation of diverse wildlife and associated habitats, conservation as well as education and wildlife-related recreation, the Division of Fish and Wildlife would undertake new programs in the areas of conservation and education. Ten percent of the funds can be used for recreation, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography. Such projects as the construction or restoration of wildlife viewing areas, observation towers, blinds, platforms, land and water trails, water access, trail heads and access for such projects could be undertaken.

The House version of CARA now has seven titles, which could increase funding for federal and state conservation and recreation programs, urban parks, historic preservation, and wildlife conservation. Currently HR 701 has 294 bipartisan co-sponsors. Funds for the legislation arise from outer continental shelf (OCS) oil and gas revenue.

Indiana Senator Evan Bayh co-sponsored the Senate bill, S.25, and Indiana Representatives Tim Roemer, Julia Carson and Mark Souder co-sponsored the House bill, H.R. 701. Governor Frank O'Bannon joined 48 other governors to support the use of offshore oil and gas revenues to fund wildlife conservation, state and local parks and coastal restoration. If approved, total new federal funding for the Indiana DNR could be \$31 million per year.

The Indiana coalition supporting CARA has more than 80-member groups. The coalition wants Indiana members of Congress to vote yes for CARA when it comes before the House, probably in April, so they continue to remind Congress through e-mail, phone and letters that they support CARA, especially, Title III. Title III covers wildlife conservation and restoration.

For more information about CARA, the website: [www.house.gov/resources/ocs](http://www.house.gov/resources/ocs) has the complete text of the legislation. The website: [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com) has current information. Betsy Ingle, Teaming With Wildlife Coordinator for Indiana, can be reached by phone at 317/232-4080, e-mail [ingle@fw.dnr.state.in.us](mailto:ingle@fw.dnr.state.in.us) or fax 317/232-8150.

## DIVISION MISSION



*"To manage fish and wildlife for present and future generations, balancing ecological, recreational and economic benefits."*

*Focus on Fish & Wildlife* is a quarterly publication from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife. *Focus on Fish & Wildlife* seeks to educate sportsmen and women, conservationists, wildlife recreationists and all Hoosiers on topics related to the management of Indiana's fish and wildlife resources.

**Larry D. Macklin, Director**  
*Department of Natural Resources*

**David W. Vice, Deputy Director**  
*Bureau of Water and Resource Regulation*

**Gary Doxtater, Director**  
*Division of Fish and Wildlife*

**Jon Marshall, Director**  
*Public Affairs*

**Michael Ellis, Editor**  
**John Maxwell, Photographer**  
**Rebecca Mauser, Designer**  
*Focus on Fish & Wildlife*

*Focus on Fish & Wildlife* is distributed free of charge. To subscribe, send name, complete address, city, state and zip code. Send address changes or subscription requests to the following:

*Focus on Fish & Wildlife*  
402 W. Washington St., Room W273  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

If you have questions about the Division of Fish and Wildlife, please write to the above address or call 317/232-4080.

Visit the DNR  
Division of Fish & Wildlife website:  
[www.ai.org/dnr/fishwild/index.html](http://www.ai.org/dnr/fishwild/index.html)



Printed on recycled paper

## Focus on *Harvest of Kindness*

### Counting on Carl

A lot of people are counting on Carl Clipp, while Clipp counts on the DNR's Huntington Reservoir wildlife crew to back him up.

If the weather is nice, you can usually find Carl working in the garden at Norwood Nursing Center in Huntington. Most locals probably remember Carl from his 40 years in the shoe business or his 30 years as a desk clerk at the Huntington YMCA.

The ninety-something resident of the center plants and weeds so his fellow residents can enjoy earthy backyard tomatoes and greens. He also helps local wild critters by growing sunflowers and other wild foods.

If the weather isn't so nice, you'll find Carl operating his ham radio. He radio dispatches wind, precipitation and temperature measurements to the National Weather Service every day.

Carl's nine decades of growing, fitting, counting, measuring and just plain general living has taught him that man does not live by bread

alone. That's why he helps stock bird feeders outside many of the resident's room windows. The bustling, colorful birds help nurture many souls through the northern Indiana winter.

"Carl's a great guy," says Norwood's social service director Lynette Dowden. "Almost every room in the center has a bird feeder outside the window — that's about 50 rooms."

This is where Huntington Reservoir's property manager Jeff Reed rides into the story on a combine to help. Carl can't grow or afford enough seed to fill all the feeders. But nearby Huntington Reservoir usually has sunflower seed left in its dove fields every fall; much of which rots in the wet Indiana winter.

### Good neighbors

Jeff Reed and his Huntington Reservoir wildlife crew grow 90 acres of sunflowers at the DNR property every summer as part of their mourning dove habitat management program. Once the hunting season is over, Reed harvests surplus seed from half of his sunflower plots. He then bags and distributes the seed to local nursing homes and DNR nature centers. Some of the seed remaining in the field helps the property's wild turkey, quail, deer, doves, squirrels, raccoons, goldfinches and other songbirds through lean winters.

"We deliver about fifty large sacks of sunflower seed to people who cannot afford to buy wild bird food," says Reed. "This way it's not wasted and we don't compete with commercial bird seed growers."

Reed, a straight-talking native of Roanoke, Ind., says money for Hunt-



Carl Clipp and Huntington Reservoir property manager Jeff Reed fill bird feeders at Norwood Nursing Home in Huntington.



Ben Lyons (left) and Casey Emley of the Huntington Reservoir wildlife crew help Jeff Reed bag sunflower seed for delivery to local nursing homes and DNR nature centers.

ington Reservoir's wildlife program is generated on the 8,000-acre public property through cropland leases to area farmers. In order to control natural succession, Reed leases sections of tillable ground to area farmers. In addition to payment for use of the land, the farmers leave ten percent of their crop in the fields for wildlife.

"The surplus seed harvest increases the value of the property to the community. We believe Huntington Reservoir should be part of the community, and we're doing what any good neighbor would do," says Reed.

Reed and his crew have also helped the Huntington Reservoir community by building more than 20 ponds and marshes, teaching boater and hunter safety courses, maintaining shooting and archery ranges, rehabilitating Rock Creek, and planting and managing 400 acres of prairie grass.

Prepared by John Maxwell, Division of Fish and Wildlife

# focus on *Fish & Wildlife Education*

## ***Discover the Outdoors Bow Camp***

Nine-year-old Kara McCarthy held her bow ready at her side with an arrow nocked. A projected picture of a doe flashed on the white screen 15 yards in front of her. The doe faced away from her with its white tail in the air. Kara was still.

A few seconds later, a photo of a buck turned broadside rubbing its antlers on a sapling appeared suddenly on the screen. Kara simultaneously drew back her bow while pulling up to aim. She released the arrow instantly and it sank halfway up the shaft into the hay-bale-backed screen with a crisp thud. Her arrow stuck right behind the shoulder of the deer—a perfect shot.

Kara was participating in the Indiana Bowhunter's Association's *Discover the Outdoors Bow Camp*, which is held annually in Columbus, Ind., the first weekend of July. Although instructors at the camp like to foster the shooting skill that Kara displayed, they quickly point out that the most important part of Bow Camp is the development of respect—respect for wildlife and respect for each other. Although the camp is centered around teaching archery skills, the activities are designed to teach teamwork and a wide range of outdoor skills.

The camp is limited to 20 kids (and accompanying adults). Participants range from six to 12 years old. Many of the kids who come to the camp are part of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters mentoring program.

The weekend-long workshop is held at Columbus Youth Camp, a beautifully wooded facility complete with all the obligatory campy qualities such as cabins, canoes, lightning bugs, trails, poison ivy, box turtles, bunkbeds, swimming, toads, mosquitos, fishing, and campfires.

Some of the Bow Camp activities include:

- Orienteering – kids learn to use a compass to find their way through the woods while looking for landmarks along the way.
- Bowhunting by Boat – instructors teach canoeing and shooting skills. Kids shoot at 3D targets of bear, deer and fish from a canoe.
- Archery Accuracy – archery instructors teach shooting technique by challenging kids to shoot at different size balloons.
- Surface to Air Flu-Flues – kids are amazed at their ability to hit pie-plate-sized flying targets with “flu-flu” arrows.



All of the activities are designed to accommodate kids of all skill levels, from those who have never pulled a bow to deadeye shots like Kara. Accompanying adults are encouraged to participate and learn along with the kids. A \$60 fee covers everything for one child and adult. Archery equipment is provided.

For information about next year's camp, call Gene Hopkins at (812) 342-3675 or e-mail him at [ghopkins@hsonline.net](mailto:ghopkins@hsonline.net).

A similar bow camp is held in the Fort Wayne area each summer. For more information, call Randy Janson at 219/420-0900 or e-mail him at [74517.124@compuserve.com](mailto:74517.124@compuserve.com).

Story and photos by Jon Marshall, Division of Fish and Wildlife



## **Outfitting kids for archery**

Start kids out easy with a light-pull long or recurve bow. Bows can be specially outfitted for kids with “no glove” tabs that make pulling the bow string more comfortable. For more information on archery equipment for kids, see the Three Rivers Archery website at [www.3riversarchery.com](http://www.3riversarchery.com) or call Todd Smith at 219/587-9501.



focus on

# *Hunting, Fishing and Shooting Sports*

## Ask a friend to step outside

An exciting new program called STEP OUTSIDE™ is here to assist in welcoming newcomers to outdoor sports. Target shooting, archery, hunting and fishing are all great fun, but to someone who has never had a chance to experience one of these activities, it can be an intimidating first-time experience.

The nationwide program has great potential to generate new interest in and support of these traditional sports.

The key is you. Invite a beginner to share the outdoor sports experience. When you introduce someone to one of these outdoor activities, you assure the future of your sport and make a difference in the individual lives you touch.

### What you can do

It's as simple as asking someone to go target shooting, hunting or fishing. Invite them for an introductory lesson and, if possible, follow-up by mentoring that individual until your friend is proficient.

Without a doubt, a personal invitation from you, an outdoorsman or woman, is the easiest and most enjoyable way



- Invite a member of your town or city council or your mayor to go fishing with you.
- Extend an invitation to your local congressman or woman to spend an afternoon target shooting or fishing. It's a great way to educate legislators who vote on wildlife and conservation measures.
- Do you know a student interested in hunting? Pledge to take them all the way through hunter education: from finding the course, providing transportation, assisting in the purchase of the first license and taking the successful student on his or her first hunting trip.
- Call your local news reporter, radio announcer or anchorperson on your favorite TV news program — invite them to join you for a morning or afternoon of some STEP OUTSIDE activities.

for a first-timer to try his or her hand at target shooting, archery, hunting or fishing.

### Want to learn more?

You're not alone. Research shows that close to 100 million men and women would accept an invitation to target shoot if asked.

Lots of information already exists through books, brochures, videos, magazines, television programs and organizations that provides basic steps to get started. However, most people prefer some hands on instruction before heading out on their own.

Many target shooters, archers, anglers and hunters want to share the knowledge and love they have for these outdoor activities.

Talk with people at work and ask friends. Visit a retailer who handles sporting goods. Ask if he or she can introduce you to someone willing to help. Before long, you too will want to return the favor and invite someone one-on-one to step outside.

For more information about the program, check out [www.stepoutside.org](http://www.stepoutside.org)

Prepared by Michael Ellis, Division of Fish and Wildlife



# focus on *Up and Coming Fishing Areas*

## Future fantastic fishing

Spring is a time for renewal, hope and new line on fishing reels. It's also time to plan fishing trips. DNR fisheries biologists have been working hard to improve fishing at a bunch of places, and are now ready to predict some future fishing hotspots.

These are the lakes and streams anglers will soon be talking about—fresh new fisheries with maturing plentiful game fish populations.

Fish scientists have used a variety of management methods to turn on the fishing, methods include size and creel limits, fish stocking, lake renovations and sediment control. When you throw these new places in with existing hot spots, you've got a full year of first-class, fishing options. So grab a pole and hang on 'cause here we go.

### **Eagle Creek walleye:**

Biologist Doug Keller says the walleye fishing should take off at Eagle Creek Reservoir. The Division of Fish and Wildlife has stocked the Marion County lake with these popular game fish since 1997, and this fall's survey shows promise. "There's a small fishable population right now. Fishing should really heat up by 2001 or 2002."

Keller bases his forecast on survey results that show last spring's stocking to be extremely successful. The largest fish found in the survey was stocked in 1997, weighed 2.5 pounds and was 19 inches long.

### **Raccoon Lake striped bass:**

Keller and biologist Rhett Wisener spent three days this fall setting and hauling in gill nets at Cecil M. Harden Lake, also known as Raccoon Lake. They were catching and measuring striped bass, a stocked fish species the biolo-

gists hoped would convert pesky gizzard shad into a usable game fish.

The survey showed Raccoon's striped bass are thriving and growing. The largest fish netted stretched more than 33 inches long. Anglers are now stumbling onto these big fish while fishing for other species. Several anglers re-

when the lake was drained, refilled and restocked with game fish. Prior to the lake renovation, largemouth bass and panfish numbers were dropping due to an exploding shad population.

"A renovated lake generally takes four years to peak," says Keller. "Glenn Flint probably peaked in 1999. It was

an outstanding year for bluegill and redear. Some redear weighed 1.5 pounds." Keller also says channel catfish weighing 10 pounds are being pulled from the Putnam County lake. Keller predicts bluegill fishing will be good for another five years and bass fishing will continue to improve, but will crash when prolific shad eventually compete with young bass.

### **Kosciusko County muskie:**

"Webster Lake is the best muskie lake in the Midwest," says fish biologist Jed Pearson. "The lake holds a tremendous number of big muskie."

Hatchery crews collecting broodstock from Webster have had 30 muskie in excess of 30 inches swim into a trap in a day. A fish larger than the 35 pound state record fish was caught last year and Webster Lake muskie hunters commonly report 3 to 4

muskie-a-day catches.

The DNR has started aggressively stocking nearby Tippecanoe Lake and the Barbie Chain of Lakes with muskellunge. "Big muskie have already been caught from these lakes. All three lakes have similar habitat, but Tippe and the Barbie chain have more space. They could soon be even better than Webster."

### **Patoka Lake bass and catfish:**

Patoka Lake has become one of the



Biologists Rhett Wisener and Doug Keller net striped bass last fall at Raccoon Lake

ported incidental catches of 28-inch striped muscular monsters this fall.

Biologists stocked the lake with striped bass fry during the past five years. Fish stocked in 1998 now average 1.5 pounds; the 1997 fish are about three pounds; the 1996 fish weigh about 8.5 pounds and the first fish stocked in 1994 average 15 pounds.

### **Glenn Flint Lake panfish:**

Glenn Flint shed the shad in 1995

best largemouth bass fishing lakes in southern Indiana. Fisheries Biologist Dan Carnahan says big bass numbers have skyrocketed since the illegal introduction of gizzard shad into the lake “Shad are good forage for bass larger than 10 inches, explained Carnahan. “The downfall is that shad outcompete small bass and bluegill for zooplankton — their primary food source.”

Carnahan believes the super bass fishing may not last. The strong fishery was built on bass produced in the lake before the shad introduction, and his surveys show 50 percent fewer small bass to replace older fish that are harvested or die.

Big bass’ desire for shad has been good news for the lake’s channel catfish too. “Bass are the primary predator of channel cats. The channel catfish population has increased due to the bass switching to shad,” says Carnahan.

### Huntingburg Lake saugeye:

The state record saugeye was plucked from Huntingburg Lake in Dubois County. The 8.16-pound 26.25-inch fish, caught in 1998, surpassed the previous 7.98-pound record pulled from the same lake in 1995.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife has been stocking the reservoir annually with 9,400 fingerling saugeye. A 1997 survey showed that a third of these walleye/sauger hybrids were at least 18.5 inches long.

Carnahan says the best fishing usually occurs in the spring and fall. Successful saugeye anglers have used twister-tail lead head jigs, live minnows below a slip bobber, or trolled crankbaits.

### White River sauger:

Sauger are native game fish found in many of Indiana’s rivers and streams. Southern Indiana river anglers usually catch these camouflaged skinny cousins to the walleye as they congregate below dams on winter spawning runs.

Plenty of sauger were found during 1992-93 fish surveys in the East Fork of the White River below Williams Dam, but no sauger were found upstream of the dam. Williams Dam is about 10 miles west of Bedford. In 1995, the DNR began reintroducing sauger into the stretch of White River between the dam in Columbus and Williams Dam.

Biologist Larry Lehman says he recently found 17-inch sauger on survey runs between the two dams, and sauger up to 19.5 inches long have been caught by anglers below the Columbus and Seymour dams. He says the DFW plans to

continue stocking this section of the river until spring 2000. It is hoped natural reproduction will sustain the fishery.

Prepared by John Maxwell, Division of Fish and Wildlife

## New Public Access Areas

### 16 New Fishing Opportunities

From 1997 through 1999, Indiana’s Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) constructed public access sites at six rivers and four lakes.

Most access sites consist of a small concrete boat ramp and parking lot. Site development at small streams is usually limited to a park-ing lot and canoe launch.

In addition, four new properties were acquired that will provide public access to three streams and one lake when the sites are developed in 2000.

Five existing access sites were renovated and made accessible to people with disabilities.

### Background information on the public access program

The public access program was initiated in 1953 by the Division of Fish and Wildlife to provide free access to Indiana waters for anglers, hunters, trappers and wildlife viewers. Recreational boaters and canoe-

ists also benefit from the access program. Forty-seven years later, support for the program is stronger than ever and the public access program ranks high among division programs.

The DFW held a public meeting in 1990 to gather input on fish and wildlife issues from a wide variety of organizations and individuals. Obtaining more public land for fishing and hunting was one of the top 10 issues listed by meeting participants.

The demand for fishing in Indiana is high. According to Indiana’s 1994 Outdoor Recreation Plan, more than 1.5 million Hoosiers fished at least once during the year. More than 80 percent of the respondents to the 1994 statewide angler survey indicated that “free public access was important to their selection of a place to fish.”

The Division of Fish and Wildlife has funded the construction of 319 public access sites—182 sites in northern Indiana and 137 sites in southern Indiana. One hundred eighty-five sites have been developed on lakes and 134 on streams.

### Public access program growth: 1997 through 1999

Site Name	County	Site Name	County
Big Otter Lake	Steuben	Iroquois River *	Newton
Jimmerson Lake	Steuben	St. Mary’s River	Allen
Dixon Lake	Marshall	Wabash River	Parke
Goose Lake	Whitley	Muscatatuck River	Jackson
Lake Shafer *	White	Muscatatuck River	Washington
Salt Creek *	Porter	Kankakee River	Lake
Kankakee River	Lake	West Fork White River	Gibson
Maumee River *	Allen	Patoka River	Dubois

\* indicates the access site has been acquired but not yet constructed.



## focus on *Watershed Restoration*

### *Farmers help increase fish production*

In Indiana, farmers help produce fish in two ways: directly through aquaculture and indirectly by practicing good soil and water conservation methods. With help from state and federal programs, Indiana farmers have improved fish habitat in Glenn Flint Lake, West Boggs Lake, Big Walnut Creek and many other waterways across Indiana.

They switched to conservation tillage, planted streamside vegetation, and limited livestock access to streams and lakes. These practices helped reduce the amount of soil sediment and nutrient runoff that enters Indiana's waterways.

In the 1970s, Indiana lakes were characterized by murky water containing suspended silt and high phosphorus levels. Runoff of sediments and nutrients contaminated lakes and degraded fish, wildlife, recreation, and property values.

Over the past two decades, the Indiana Conservation Partnership (a team of state, federal, and local agencies, including the DNR Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program) helped landowners improve watersheds that drain into lakes and rivers, many of which contain important recreational fisheries.

By the early 1990s, monitoring conducted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) showed a strong relationship between lake water quality and state regions where farmers improve soil and water conservation practices. Over 75 percent of the lakes in Indiana improved in water quality within the last 20 years. In southern Indiana, most reservoirs lay at the base of watersheds with steep slopes and easily eroded soils—a landscape that easily results in threats to reservoirs' water quality.

These areas gain protection with high rates of conservation tillage, and sensitive lands enrolled in conservation programs show above average

water quality.

The next time you see farms with green buffer strips along a stream and corn stalks on the ground in winter, remember to thank the farmer for their help in fish production and increasing the quality of other water based recreational activities.

---

Prepared by **Gwen White**, aquatic biologist, DNR Division of Soil Conservation



Without erosion control practices in places, sediment pours into a lake after a light rain.



Practicing good soil and water conservation methods help fish and wildlife. Green buffer strips planted along the creek helps prevent sediment runoff from filling the stream.



## focus on *New Reptile and Amphibian Rules*



Many reptile and amphibian species depend on wetlands for all or a part of their life cycle. Wetland destruction has contributed to the decrease in many of our native palustrine species.

Reptile and amphibian numbers in Indiana have declined to the point where changes in the regulations became necessary to protect the remaining populations.

### **Factors for decline**

Many reptile and amphibian species depend on wetlands for all or a part of their life cycle. The number of wetlands in Indiana has decreased over the last century as increasing human population made use of these areas. Natural resource scientists believe that approximately 88 percent of Indiana's natural wetlands are gone. The loss or alteration of habitat is one of the main factors for species endangerment and potential extinction.

Additionally, the limited ability of

these animals to disperse, coupled with illegal collecting from protected land such as state fish and wildlife areas, has helped speed up the decrease in many of our native reptile and amphibian species.

### **Stopping the decline**

In order to combat this decline, the Indiana divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife, in coordination with interested individuals and organizations, developed rules to protect Indiana's native reptiles and amphibians and provide for public safety. This new rule (312 IAC 9), went into effect August 8, 1999. It replaces all previous emergency rules.

All of Indiana's native reptiles and amphibians, their parts, eggs and

offspring, are now protected by law, and the purchase or sale of Indiana's native reptiles and amphibians is prohibited.

### **Rule exemptions**

Exemptions are made for certain educational institutions, zoological parks, and holders of a reptile captive breeders license.

Bullfrog and green frog tadpoles may be sold by holders of a fish haulers and suppliers license or aquaculture permit.

Holders of a reptile captive breeding license can sell the young of eight species of native snakes (defined by a species-specific length prescribed in the rule). In addition, native species specimens that are albinistic, leucistic and xanthic may also be sold.

Indiana residents over the age of 17 may not collect amphibians or reptiles from the wild unless they have a valid hunting or fishing license. For all collectors, there is a possession limit of four on all nongame species except endangered species.

Endangered species are protected from all collection under state law. The common snapping turtle, softshell turtles, bullfrog and green frog are regulated as game animals with specified methods of take, bag limits, and season.

A wild animal possession permit and special confinement parameters are required for individuals owning crocodilians five feet or more in length or a venomous reptile.

### **The goal**

The goal of this rule is to protect Indiana's reptile and amphibian species and to provide an environment that allows their population numbers to increase, thus keeping them from reaching endangered status.

A copy of the new regulations can be obtained by either writing to the Division of Fish and Wildlife or at [www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/index.htm](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/index.htm).

---

Article prepared by Katie Smith and Kathy Quimbach, Division of Fish and Wildlife

## Mineland acquisition update

### *Reclaimed mine lands provide tremendous recreational opportunities for Hoosiers*

The DNR first acquired coal mined land in the 1920s when reclaimed mine land was donated for Shakamak State Park and purchased for Greene-Sullivan State Forest.

In recent years, the DNR has leased more than 20,000 acres and purchased over 10,000 acres of mineland property for recreational use. The reclaimed mine lands provide tremendous recreational opportunities for Hoosiers. Coal company land holdings are usually large, have great potential for a variety of outdoor recreation activities, and are being offered for sale by willing sellers.

#### **Reclaimed mine lands**

Reclaimed mine lands make wonderful hunting, fishing and wildlife areas. Management of public land for these activities is traditionally hosted by state fish and wildlife areas and state forests.

#### **A win-win situation**

In 1996, the Indiana General Assembly recognized that this was a win-win situation for Indiana recreationists and the coal industry. The General Assembly allocated \$5 million of general fund money for the acquisition of minelands.

Upon receiving the allocation, the DNR, along with the coal industry, set about identifying parcels that were available and represented the greatest potential for recreation. The DNR formed a committee comprised of members from the divisions of Fish and Wildlife, Forestry, Outdoor Recreation, Land Acquisition and Reclamation to evaluate available mineland parcels. About \$20 million dollars worth of property was immediately identified; \$5 million dollars worth of property was selected and the acquisition process initiated.

Three land acquisition transactions have been completed. These encompassed approximately 6,000 acres at a cost of nearly \$2.7 million.

The DNR is currently negotiating with several coal companies to develop long-term agreements for the future purchase of large tracts in several phases over the next three to four years. The funding needed to secure the most attractive tracts of mineland property for recreational uses over the next four years is \$21 million.

The DNR places a high priority on obtaining tracts of reclaimed mine land. Without quick action, these large parcels will be divided, sold and may never again be available for public use.

---

Prepared by Michael Ellis, Division of Fish and Wildlife

## Indiana's Free Fishing Weekend is June 10 - 11, 2000

### **Ask your non-angling friends to Step Outside on Free Fishing Weekend (see page 5)**

Indiana residents can enjoy a weekend of fishing without purchasing a fishing license. Many public properties are hosting free fishing weekend events such as fishing clinics, derbies, fish cleaning

demonstrations and cooking classes.

Although no license is needed during free fishing weekend of June 10-11, all other fishing regulations are still in effect.

Individuals who need reasonable modifications for effective participation in Free Fishing Weekend events should contact the property at least 72 hours

before the event. Or, call the Division of Fish and Wildlife ADA coordinator at 317/232-4080 (voice and TDD).

Hovey Lake FWA and the Evansville Courier/Press newspaper sponsor a kids fishing day at Evansville's Garvin Park on July 4.

Call the property nearest you for complete details.

### **Free Fishing Weekend Events**

- Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area, Edinburgh, 812/526-2051
- Brown County State Park, Nashville, 812/988-7185
- Cagles Mill Lake (Lieber SRA), Cloverdale, 765/795-4576
- Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA), Rockville, 765/344-1412
- Chain O' Lakes State Park, Albion, 219/636-2654
- Countryside Park, Portage Parks and Portage WalMart, 219/762-1675
- Deam Lake State Recreation Area, Borden, 812/246-5421
- Elkhart County's Oxbow County Park, 219/535-6458.
- Falls of the Ohio State Park, Jeffersonville, 812/280-9970
- Fort Harrison State Park, Indianapolis, 317/591-0122
- Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area, Montgomery, 812/644-7711
- Hardy Lake, Scottsburg, 812/794-3800
- Hoosier National Forest at Sundance Lake, 812/275-5987
- Hoosier National Forest at Derby Quarry, 812/275-5987
- Hot Pond Park, Lebanon Parks Department, 765/482-8860
- Huntington Lake SRA, Huntington, 219/468-2165
- Mississinewa Lake, Peru, 765/473-6528
- Monroe Lake, Bloomington, 812/837-9546
- Oubache State Park, Bluffton, 219/824-0926
- Patoka Lake, Birdseye, 812/685-2447
- Potato Creek State Park, North Liberty, 219/656-8186
- Salamonie Lake, Andrews, 219/468-2124
- Shakamak State Park, Jasonville, 812/665-2158
- Starve Hollow State Recreation Area, Vallonia, 812/358-3464
- Summit Lake State Park, New Castle, 765/766-5873
- Versailles State Park, Versailles, 812/689-6424
- Whitewater State Park, Liberty, 765/458-5565
- Willow Slough Fish and Wildlife Area, Morocco, 219/285-2704
- Wyandotte Wood SRA, Corydon, 812/738-8234
- Yellowwood State Forest, Nashville, 812/988-7945

## focus on *Becoming an Outdoors Woman*

The New Year has “come and gone” — how many resolutions have already been forgotten? If you have resolved to de-stress, experience the outdoors, make at least one new friend, or just plain “have a good time,” then registering for a 2000-Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) weekend workshop will almost guarantee at least one realized resolution.

Becoming an Outdoors-Woman is a national program designed primarily for women. It's a great opportunity for anyone 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits.

BOW offers a variety of classes from fly fishing, riflery, archery, game cleaning, and Dutch oven cooking, to outdoor photography, orienteering, and canoeing.

Learn new skills or hone your outdoor skills in a non-stressful setting. With safety training and hands-on experience, you will be able to handle anything from guns, to hooks, to rappelling down a cliff.

Last October, graduates from the beginning backpacking/camping class used their newly acquired skills to hike and camp in the backcountry of Morgan-Monroe State Forest. Eight women and their guide traversed the Morgan-Monroe Low Gap Trail without mishap. The hikers dined on Dutch oven lasagna, tossed salad, Italian bread and cookies. The backpacking trip was the first Indiana Beyond BOW event offered. After the trek, one participant said, “It took me farther than I actually thought I

could go!”

Two BOW workshops are scheduled in 2000, May 5-7 in St. Paul, Ind., and June 9-11 in Ft. Wayne. Both workshops offer similar activities, but each one has its own unique regional flair.

For more information, contact Jennifer Kane by phone at 317/232-

4699, or e-mail to [jkane@dnr.state.in.us](mailto:jkane@dnr.state.in.us). You can also check out the BOW program at [www.state.in.us/dnr/](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/). The registration form can be accessed through the website. Workshops fill up fast so register early.

Prepared by Jennifer Kane, Division of Hearings



Jomary Crary of Indianapolis examines a turtle found while exploring the Flatrock river at a BOW workshop in St. Paul, Ind.



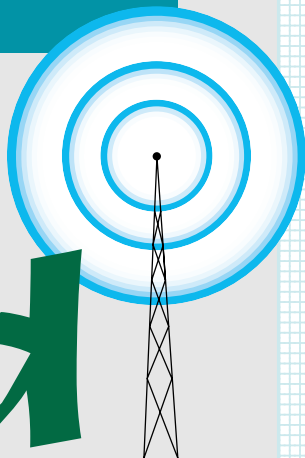
Women learn archery skills at the St Paul, Ind. spring BOW workshop.



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

# Wild bulletin

E-news about Indiana natural  
resources and recreation



**Find out** where the fish are biting, how to spot rare wild birds, and how this year's deer season is shaping up – all through **Wild Bulletin**, a **FREE** e-mail information service offered by the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife.

**Wild Bulletin** provides frequent **updates** about Indiana's natural resources and recreation through e-mail. Sign on to receive **information** about hunting and fishing season dates, regulation updates, wildlife and fisheries research status reports, **tips** on wildlife watching and reminders about **IMPORTANT DATES** for Hoosier outdoor enthusiasts. You'll also get updates about new information available on the DNR web page.

To subscribe to **Wild Bulletin**, send an e-mail to: [majordomo@ai.org](mailto:majordomo@ai.org) with the message body: **subscribe wildbulletin** <your e-mail address> Leave the subject of the message blank.

To subscribe to **Wild Bulletin** on the DNR web site, go to:  
[www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/index.htm](http://www.state.in.us/dnr/fishwild/index.htm)

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
PERMIT #7429

Address Correction Requested

Division of Fish and Wildlife  
402 W. Washington St., Room W273  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317/232-4080  
INDIANA DIVISION OF  
FISH & WILDLIFE

